

building COMMUNITY

For Indiana's Third Century

May 1, 2002

**building
COMMUNITY**, a bimonthly publication of Indiana 2016, solicits articles from around Indiana that illustrate community-based efforts. Please electronically submit articles to jswenson@gov.state.in.us. Digital photographs are accepted and encouraged.

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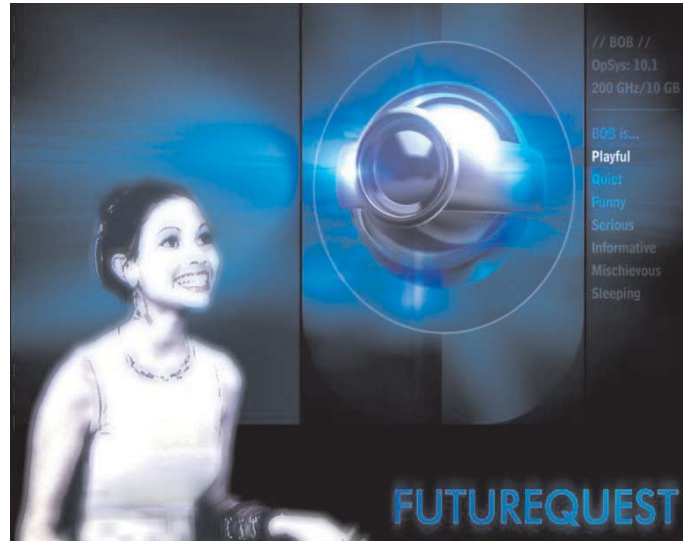
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Explore Indiana's future

What will Indiana look like in 2016 and beyond? While 14 years may seem to be a lifetime away, the choices our communities make today will shape our tomorrow. How can we encourage children—and adults—to begin thinking about shaping a successful future?

The *Tomorrow's Indiana* gallery in the new **Indiana** Museum in White River State Park has taken on the challenge. The gallery explores the complex world of the future through high-tech interactive games.

In *Future Quest*, you will meet Ismee, a teenager from the future. She and her sidekick, Bob, pose questions about the environment, society, technology and the economy. Based on the answers you give, you will see the Indiana that might result—including both the positive and negative consequences of your choices.

Explore the possibilities and challenges of scientific advances in 2025: *A Genetic Odyssey*. This interactive theater presents the story of a future Hoosier family faced with choices about the impact of genetic engineering in their lives. Like all families, they debate the best course of action. After observing the discussion, you vote on what the family should do. As with *Future Quest*, you will see possible outcomes and learn what future—in 2050—the majority opinion has created.

Beyond *Future Quest* and 2025: *A Genetic Odyssey*, the 2016 *Time Capsule* encourages you to consider how the state may change by its 200th birthday. Two additional areas showcase current innovations from Indiana's companies, universities, and institutions, providing a better understanding of the exciting opportunities Indiana offers.

So, what will Indiana look like in 2016 and beyond? While no one knows, *Tomorrow's Indiana* at the Indiana State Museum will inspire Hoosiers of all ages to think about the future they want for the state and how we can work together to get there.

You are invited to see and experience this innovative exhibit at the new Indiana State Museum's grand opening celebration on May 22, 2002.

-Emily Klotz King is manager of Tomorrow's Indiana.

The Indiana State Museum, located in White River State Park in the heart of *Indianapolis*, opens May 22, 2002. You may visit Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday from noon to 5 pm. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, 13 and over; \$6.50 for seniors 62 and over; and \$4.00 for youth ages 4 - 12. The Museum is closed New Years Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Gatherings

by Judy O'Bannon



Above: Indiana's future leaders need solid reading skills. A **Maplewood Elementary** third grader gets encouragement from First Lady Judy O'Bannon while writing a letter to her book buddy during a visit to **Richmond**. The letter was one link in a chain of letters that the first lady carried from school to school, connecting pen pals at **Indianapolis Public School 69** to book buddies in **Corydon, Leavenworth, Evansville, Connersville, Richmond, Fort Wayne** and **Montpelier**.
Right: **Richmond** students hear the importance of getting help when reading is a challenge.

As we opened the door into a new millennium just a few years ago, we Hoosiers began to look ahead to the bicentennial of the state in the year 2016. We encouraged communities to consider four questions. 1) What is our past? 2) Who are we today? 3) What do we want to be in the future? 4) How do we make this vision a reality?

All along, the attention of the Indiana 2016 Task Force has been aimed at the well being of people as they gather together in the future. Truly, *Indiana 2016* is about communities building community.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, all of us want to have a better sense of who we are and how we fit into this world around us. We look for an anchor and a sense of belonging that will give us that foundation to build upon for our unknown future. We also seek a route to take to reach our hopes and dreams for our tomorrow.

The new Indiana State Museum offers us tools to build upon our foundation and map our route to the future, and, yes, the chance to build our 2016 community ourselves. Let's celebrate its opening and enter into its new life together.

Read for summer fun

"So turn off the TV and radio and start reading," directed an **Evansville** third grader in a note to his "book buddy." Composed during a visit by Judy O'Bannon in early March, this letter encouraged taking concrete steps to read more.

What this third grader was saying, even if he didn't realize it, is that reading is a vital step towards becoming more involved in your community. Participation often requires knowledge, and reading opens the door to knowledge. Every community in Indiana needs citizens who are educated, who have the creativity and problem-solving skills reading promotes.

As summer reading programs kick off all over the state, why not make reading a priority this summer? Why not commit to spending time reading with someone else? Maybe it's an elderly neighbor or a child; maybe it's forming a book club with some friends; maybe it's reading aloud every night as a family. Whatever the case, your public library can offer some assistance.

Visit www.inspire.net to find out information on public libraries and reading programs in your area, or find book suggestions for kids this summer on the O'Bannon Book Buddy Web Site (www.obannonbookbuddy.com).



-Katy Brett

One person's vision can start something big!



Community building, by definition, means many people pulling together for a common goal; however, it only takes one determined person to start the ball rolling!

Bob Haverstick of Indianapolis saw a play about lonely seniors, and the experience had a profound effect. So, in January 2000, Haverstick launched Never Too Late, an effort to help elderly Hoosiers fulfill their long-lost wishes.

Haverstick tested the concept with Edwin, a 76-year-old retired farmer

with Alzheimer's disease. Edwin wanted nothing more than one more ride on a tractor—one more afternoon in a field, with the scent of freshly plowed dirt in the air and the sun glaring in his eyes.

So Haverstick found a farmer to help make Edwin's wish come true. Haverstick even found a replica of the tractor Edwin owned when he was farming. Watching Edwin rumble along through the field gave him goose bumps, Haverstick said. And the experience helped him know in his heart that Never Too Late had to be much more than just a fleeting idea.

Since then, Haverstick and helpful volunteers have granted wishes for more than 100 elderly Hoosiers. Granting wishes to seniors and making sure everyone is included in the community is most rewarding, Haverstick said.

Every person has needs. Every person has gifts. Programs such as Never Too Late are providing opportunities that make everyone a winner. It's never too late for **you** to get involved in building your community, and perhaps participating in Haverstick's program is for you. To learn more, check out www.nevertoolate.org.

- **Sonya Baker Hallett** is the director of Indiana GIVING Ventures (IGIVE).

Thanks to **Sherri Coner** for excerpts from the Daily Journal.

Healthier people today- Stronger communities tomorrow

My experience as an emergency room nurse and volunteer in rural Indiana shows that you can bloom where you're planted and build community that flourishes beyond your expectations.

As an Army Reserves nurse, I took a mandatory trauma training course, the sort of course that's required for all urban emergency rooms. Later, as a nurse in a small hospital in rural **Vermillion County**, I realized that our staff needed the same training. In order for the big centers to perform the wonders they can do, the rural patient has to "arrive alive." The more the rural nurses know, the better the chances for our friends, neighbors and family to arrive alive at the big city hospital.

So in my capacity as a volunteer for the Emergency Nurses Association, I approached the **Vermillion County Community Foundation**, for seed money to bring the trauma-training course to our area. The first year, 24 rural nurses took the training, and in the ensuing four years, the Emergency Nurses Association has sponsored 14 additional courses in six more Hoosier communities, and for the nursing staff at the Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute.

"We didn't get this in nursing school," say many of those who complete the course, a reaction which proves the value of the training to individual nurses and to the rural communities they serve.

To spread the message and the program, I created the logo and catchphrase, "ER, You Watch It... WE LIVE IT!!!" It now appears on stickers, key tags, magnets, hats, and shirts all over the United States and in many other countries. Little donations per item come back to the Emergency Nurses Association, a non-profit group, to fund additional adult and pediatric trauma skills courses, coordinated with nurses from the big-city trauma centers.

If you're interested in finding out how to bring the trauma training course to nurses in your rural community, call me at 765-665-3667

ER: You Watch It... WE LIVE IT!

- **Meredith Addison** is a nurse in rural Vermillion County.

INDIANA

2016

It's your turn!

Who's responsible for building your community? Who has the task of making your community a better place to live?

Hoosiers from **East Chicago** to **Corydon** have been taking personal responsibility for building their communities over the past 5 years, and the results may surprise you.

Citizens in Corydon shared memories over old pictures as they compiled a book, and in the process, they discovered more than their community's past. They became a team working on Corydon's future.

Youth Commissioner **Jhordan Logan** from **New Castle** developed a program pairing elementary school students and nursing homes residents. Through her efforts, people of all ages became active in meeting their community's needs.

Students in **East Chicago** created a mural depicting a future where a woman is president, people travel in space, and everyone gets along in their community. In the process, the cityscape improved, and participants built stronger relationships.

People all over the state, in large and small communities, are acting to make their visions for the future into reality. The common denominator is that people stopped waiting for someone else to act. They came together, tapped local resources, and enjoyed the results and the process of building community!

So, who builds community? **YOU DO!** Visit the Indiana 2016 web site at www.indiana2016.org to find out how you can get your community involved!

Access Indiana's heritage online

Writer Robert Heinlein once wrote that a generation which ignores history has no future. Indiana can trace its history as a state back to the Land Ordinance of 1785. As Hoosiers race into a new millennium, we build upon our state's history every day, from sunrise to sunset.

Increasingly, the keepers of Indiana's heritage are making records, information and indexes to collections available on the state's Web resource, *accessIndiana*. Researchers can plan site visits by going online to check when a facility is open, view collection descriptions, and print directions and parking information. Setting the groundwork for a research project by going online first can save time and money!

Indiana's online historical resources include:

State Archives:

www.IN.gov/icpr/archives

Historical Bureau:

www.IN.gov/history

State Library:

www.IN.gov/library

State Museum & Historic Sites:

www.IN.gov/ism

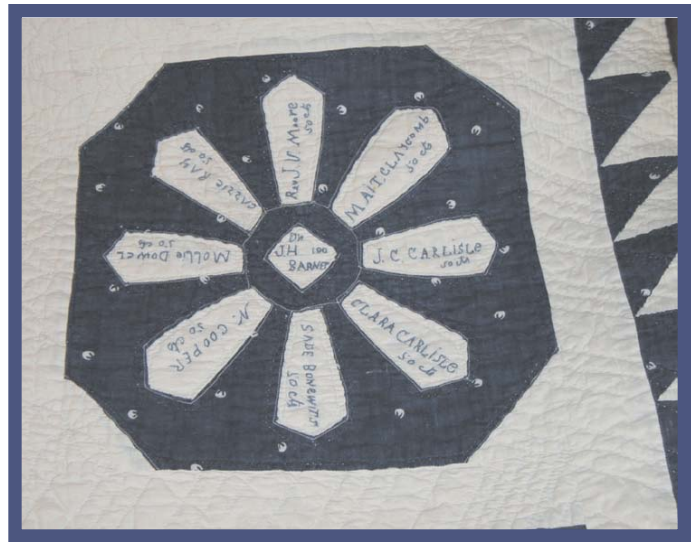
Historical Society:

www.indianahistory.org

-Kelly Jones Sharp is public information officer for the Intelenet Commis-

A Piece of Home

"Every time I look at it, I think of home," said Jane Jarvis, a Hoosier native and nationally celebrated jazz pianist.



Jarvis was speaking of a wagon-wheel-style, signature quilt, made in the late 19th Century by members of a church in Monroe City in rural Knox County. Jarvis inherited the quilt from her parents and on March 19 at the Governor's Residence, she presented it to the Indiana State Museum (ISM).

"The quilt does literally tell a story of home," said First Lady Judy O'Bannon. "Its stitching and pattern give us a glimpse into the bonds that brought Hoosiers, including Jane's family members, together in the late 1800s."

The quilt was created as a fundraiser for a local **Monroe City** church. Citizens in the community paid either 50 cents or \$1 to have their names sewn into the spokes of the wagon wheels. Once it was finished, Jarvis' grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, purchased it.

Jarvis went from child prodigy in the 1920s to being named a "living legend" by the International Women of Jazz in 1996. Throughout her life, she played with such headliners as Ethel Waters and Sophie Tucker, and produced more than 300 albums as a vice president of Muzak Corporation. Over the years as Jarvis traveled, the quilt traveled too. For her, it was her last link to her parents and the Hoosier community that she grew up a part of years ago.

"At that time in Indiana, churches brought people together for spiritual and community events, and in the doing of these things, strengthened the sense of community," O'Bannon said. "The quilt is a powerful symbol of community. For Jane, it was her family's community, something she held close."

Kathleen McLary, deputy director for the ISM's programs and interpretation, said the quilt also represents an artistic tradition that according to O'Bannon is still alive today.

As Indiana prepared to mark the millennium in 1999, a number of cities and towns throughout the state chose to note the time in history with community quilts. One such quilt was created in **Fayette County**.

As the millennium neared, several citizens came up with the idea of telling Fayette County's story through panels that represent the activities of area organizations. Designers and quilters created panels that illustrate what citizens did together to strengthen their community. They highlighted such successful projects as the "save our sculpture" effort at St. Gabriel Church and the flowers planted throughout the community by the Altruista Watering Can Project.

"Like Jane's quilt, the Fayette County quilt speaks of home to all those who helped created and see it as it's exhibited throughout the community," O'Bannon said.

-Jonathan Swain

Courage leads the way to freedom

Hoosiers have always valued freedom. Learning about George De Baptiste's tireless struggle to secure freedom for others underscores our ongoing responsibility to challenge the barriers that exist today. The Underground Railroad, an unlikely alliance of white Quakers, free blacks, and other brave freedom fighters, provides inspiration for all of us to continue the work they began.

Free black leaders of the Underground Railroad such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, have become household names, but you may have missed out on one of the most colorful, imaginative and downright cocky personalities in Nineteenth Century Indiana, unless you've discovered George De Baptiste, of **Madison, Indiana**.

Publicly, George De Baptiste operated a fashionable barbershop. Secretly, he managed a strategic planning and tactical communications center for Indiana's Underground Railroad.

De Baptiste was born into a wealthy free black family from Fredericksburg, Virginia. His father apprenticed him to a famous society barber in Richmond, Virginia, where he excelled.

In his first placement, as valet to a gambler named Amos Smith, young De Baptiste toured the South. Later De Baptiste became a steward on Ohio and Mississippi River steamboats.

Near the end of 1837, a well educated, well traveled, George De Baptiste arrived in what was then Indiana's largest city, **Madison**, to open a barbershop just two blocks from the Ohio River.

De Baptiste was a snappy dresser, quick with his wit and vivacity, and he joked openly with his white customers. He became a favorite of both town leaders and slave owners from across the river in Kentucky. Little did they suspect that his shop provided a cover for a daring Underground Railroad operation conducting fugitive slaves from the Ohio River's edge to the Neil's Creek and Rykers Ridge abolitionists.

He wasn't afraid to make waves. No sooner had De Baptiste arrived in Madison than he challenged Indiana's law requiring free blacks to post \$50 if they intended to stay in the state. Judge Steven C. Stevens took the case all the way to the state Appellate Court. The Court upheld the law, but exempted De Baptiste from having to pay.

On a trip to Cincinnati, De Baptiste met William Henry Harrison who liked him so much, he hired De Baptiste as his personal valet. Through the "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too" presidential campaign, De Baptiste traveled with Harrison. When Harrison was elected, he named De Baptiste the White House Steward.

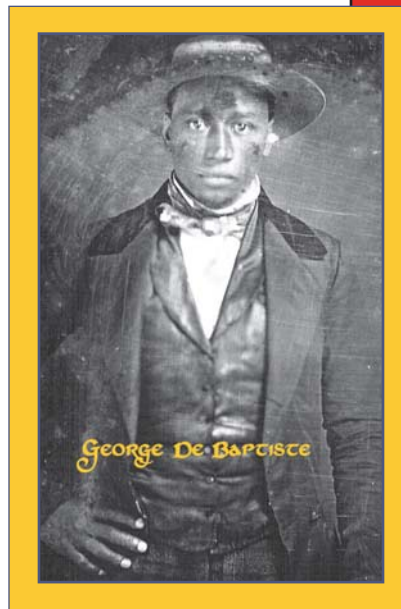
After Harrison's death, De Baptiste returned to Madison and re-opened his barbershop, where he remained until the riots of 1845-1846, which targeted free black leaders. With a \$1,000 bounty on his head, De Baptiste decided it was "too hot" in Madison, and moved to Detroit, Michigan to head up the Underground Railroad in conjunction with William Lambert there.

While in Indiana, from 1838 to 1846, De Baptiste personally brought 180 fugitive slaves from Kentucky cities to freedom in Madison.

*-Historian **Diane Coon** specializes in the Ohio River Valley.*

Today, **Indiana Freedom Trails**, a coalition of committed people from around the state, is identifying 19th century Underground Railroad routes, including those used by George De Baptiste. From Madison to **South Bend**, these routes punctuate Indiana's landscape with stories of courage, compassion and barriers that have been eradicated.

Those active in the Underground Railroad fought against barriers imposed on people due to their race. Today people face barriers related to their race, gender, economic level, language, or lack of information. An integral part of community building is ensuring that all citizens have a voice and a role in the community. See the article about Juneteenth (right).



Be part of history

Commemorated annually on June 19, Juneteenth is a celebration of the ending of slavery and a good time to honor Indiana's Underground Railroad heritage.

On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Be part of history and see new historical markers commemorating Indiana's Underground Railroad heritage by attending one of the following Juneteenth celebrations.

June 15

Juneteenth Jamboree 2002

Children's Museum of Indianapolis

10 AM – 7 PM

Picnic in the Park

Tapawingo Park, Lafayette

12 noon – 6 PM

Juneteenth Street Fair

400 Block Douglas, Ft. Wayne

1 PM – 4 PM

June 18

Eleutherian College

Luncheon

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM tentative

June 19

Juneteenth Activities

Indiana State Museum

9:30 AM – 2 PM

Levi Coffin Historic

Marker Unveiling

Fountain City 10 AM

June 22

Rejoice! It's a Family Affair

LaSalle Park, South Bend

8:30 AM

June 24

Lyles Station

Historic Marker Unveiling

10:30

For more information call

Tiara Nibbs 232-1646

“Earth Day and Arbor Day provide tremendous opportunities for human resources and natural resources to come together through educational, community-building activities.”

-Judy O'Bannon



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Festival of Growth (right) and community gardening programs (left) offer perfect opportunities for bringing people of all ages together.



Dig into your community

Are you looking for a way to “dig in” to your community? The Festival of Growth held annually at the Governor’s Residence, in honor of Arbor Day and Earth Day, provides an experience that can be replicated in any community. The festival, commemorated this year on May 4, offers visitors fun, educational opportunities that bring human and natural resources together. The celebration encourages Hoosiers to look to the future and to ensure the protection of our cherished natural resources.

Each year, DNR’s Division of Forestry, in conjunction with Governor and Mrs. O’Bannon, recognizes communities all over the state that have earned the distinction of Tree Cities. These cities make a substantial commitment to the environment by passing a tree ordinance and conducting an inventory of their existing forests. They also allocate \$2 per capita to planting trees, organize a tree board and recognize Arbor Day in their community.

At the Governor’s Residence, any hazardous or diseased trees identified in the tree inventory have been removed, resulting in a supply of native lumber that schools across Indiana have used to create unique gifts: wind chimes, trinket boxes, planters and other small wooden items. The schools then present these items to the State to be used as official gifts. Schools participating this year include **Indiana School for the Blind, Indiana School for the Deaf, Indiana Girls School, Corydon High School, Veederburg High School and Deer Run Center.**

Chainsaw carving demonstrations, contests, music (played on wooden instruments, of course) and special visits from feathered tree dwellers round out the day. Consider using ideas and add a few of your own to create a fun-filled, creative, ecological festival in your community. Planting trees is one of the most effective ways to positively impact your community’s future. So dig in!

For more information on how your community can become a Tree City and for additional ideas for Arbor Day celebrations, please contact Pam Louks, Urban Forestry Coordinator, at 317-915-9390 or plouks@dnr.state.in.us.

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